

strange compound of the two races. The contour of his frame and features is Scotch; his manners and inclinations strongly tinged with the Indian. He has been in the service of the fur companies all his life, some six or seven years past; and by his daring enterprise, and courage in battle, has rendered himself the terror of the Oregon Indians."

BIOGRAPHY OF FOUNDERS, ARCHITECTS, AND BUILDERS.

No. 1.—EOWAN COLSTON.

At the age of 30 years, to begin a very eventful East-India merchant, prior to the incorporation of the East-India Company, and had 40 sail of ships of his own, with immense riches flowing upon him. He still retained uniform in his charitable disposition, distributing many thousand pounds to various charities in and about London, besides private gifts in many parts of the kingdom. In the year 1706 he instituted a very magnificent school in St. Augustine's, back in Bristol, which cost him 11,000*l.* in the building, and endowed the same with between 1,700*l.* and 1,800*l.* per annum for ever. He likewise gave 10*l.* for apprenticing every boy, and for 12 years after his death 10*l.* to put them into business. It has been frequently reported that his private charities far exceeded those in public. I have heard that one of his ships trading to the East Indies had been missing upwards of three years, and was supposed to be destroyed at sea, but at length she arrived, richly laden. When his principal clerk brought him the report of her arrival, and of the riches on board, he said as she was totally given up for lost, he would by no means claim any right to her; therefore he ordered the ship and merchandise to be sold, and the produce thereof to be applied towards the relief of the needy, which directions were immediately carried into execution. Another singular instance of his tender consciousness for charity was at the age of 60, when he entertained some thoughts of changing his condition. He paid his addresses to a lady, but being very timorous lest he should be hindered in his pious and charitable designs, he was determined to make a Christian trial of her temper and disposition, and therefore one morning filled his pockets full of gold and silver, in order that if any object presented itself in the course of their four over-London-bridge, he might satisfy his intentions. While they were walking near St. Magnus' Church, a woman in extreme rascality, with wine in her lap, sat heaving, and, as he and his intended lady were arm-in-arm, he beheld the wretched object, put his hand in his pocket, and took out a handful of gold and silver, casting it into the poor woman's lap. The lady being greatly amused at such profuse generosity, coloured indignantly; so that when they were gone a little further towards the bridge-foot, she turned to him and said, "Sir, do you know what you did a few minutes ago?" "Madam," replied Mr. Colston, "I never let my right hand know what my left hand doeth." He then took his leave of her, and for this reason never married to the day of his death, although he lived to the age of 85.—*Bristol Journal.*

EMBANKMENT OF THE RIVER THAMES.—Her Majesty's Commissioners of Sewers for the limits extending from East Molesey, in Surrey, to Ravenshoe, in Kent, have issued their warrant to these several occupiers of wharves and premises on the southern shore of the river Thames, to the following effect:—"That, whereas the wall or bank of the river Thames within the parish of St. Saviour, in the borough of Southwark, in the county of Surrey, is by reason of the high tides become defective, and of insufficient height to resist the waters from overflowing the dwellings of the inhabitants, and the low grounds and places therein adjoining thereto, the said parish, to the great detriment and loss of the owners and occupiers thereof, &c." It is then ordered that the several resident tenants on Bankside shall raise the embankment 18 inches eastward and westward. It is much to be regretted that the embankment as proposed long since was so precipitately abandoned, particularly as the expense will fall very heavily on the owners and occupiers who hold their premises on lease only. A public meeting on the subject will shortly be advertised.

CHURCH-BUILDING INTELLIGENCE, &c.

St. Andrew's Church, Plymouth.—On Tuesday last, between 12 and 1 o'clock, a moral monument fell from its position near the south-eastern angle of the church, throwing the pews and floor in its vicinity with its fragments, the noble piece of sculpture being broken into "a thousand" pieces. No indication of its insecurity had been perceptible. The tablet set for that "New place" is inverted the body of Edmund Lechmere, formerly commander of H.M.S. Lynx, and late of the Lynx frigate, of 32 guns, on board of which he departed this life, 16th of January, 1703, from wounds which he received on the 15th in an engagement with a French privateer, of 46 guns, from whom he protected a large fleet of merchant ships at last safety, and by bravery gave the enemy defeat, and forced him to bear away with very much damage. He was, in the beginning of the action, wounded in both knees, and afterwards received a musket-shot through his body, yet neither discouraged him from prosecuting the enemy with the utmost vigour.

Stained Glass.—The painted window of the eastern aisle of the Church of St. Magdalen, was on Sunday submitted to the view of the congregation. The whole area of the window is decorated with appropriate configurations, executed by Mr. Walter, of Newcastle, worked in stained glass of every variety of brilliant and subdued tone of colour. The subjects represented are those of our Saviour, Mary Magdalen, the Four Evangelists, and the Seraphim. The effect is exceedingly impressive. Every subordinate portion of the window is tastefully decorated with consistent embellishments, and the whole confers a strikingly pleasing effect on this beautiful fabric.—*Taunton Courier.*

Thame, Oxfordshire.—The parish church is about to be repaired, the necessary funds to defray the expense having been raised by voluntary subscriptions amongst the inhabitants. On either side of the pews, which will be placed in the centre, there will be free sittings for between 300 and 400 persons more than at present.

Birchcliffe, near Burnley.—R. Townley Parker, Esq., of Curwen Hall, has, with his wonted liberality, given a very eligible plot of land for the site of a paragon-house in connection with St. James' Church, Birchcliffe, near Burnley. He has also given some from one of his quarries for the building of the house.—*Yorkshire Chronicle.*

We have pleasure in stating that her Majesty the Queen Dowager has recently forwarded to the incumbent of Stoke Saint Gregory the sum of 20*l.* towards the handsome church of that parish.—*Taunton Courier.*

St. John's Church, Bridgwater.—This edifice will be completed in a few weeks.

TRAFALGAR-SQUARE.—The works within the inclosure of Trafalgar-square are proceeding rapidly towards completion, Mr. Barry, the architect, having devoted much of his time of late for the purpose of causing the whole to be thrown open to the public during the summer months. The Artisan well is likewise fast advancing, the hole having been already sunk to a considerable depth. The lower of the fountains will be 83 feet in diameter, and are to be covered with Maude's patent Portland stone cement, which has been found to resist the action of the atmosphere and of water as long as most descriptions of stone, while it possesses and retains the colour of that material. The pavement of the lower court of the quadrangle is to be laid out in somewhat of a tessellated style, the darker parts being composed of a-phalte, and relieved by the introduction of ornamental work in the Portland stone cement. The whole space to be covered is about 18,000 feet.—*Globe.*

STATUE OF THE DUKK OF GORDON.—Preparations were commenced on Wednesday last for erecting in Castle street, the statue of the Duke of Gordon. An immense block of Peterhead granite, from the Stillinghill quarries, weighing 10 tons, was brought to the intended site on the above day, and workmen are now busily employed upon it. This block forms the pedestal upon which the figure will stand. We understand it will take a month to complete the preliminaries for the erection of the statue on the pedestal, when it will be inaugurated with all due honours.—*Aberdeen Herald.*

Correspondence.

NEW BUILDING-ACT.

Sir,—May I draw your attention to the "Bill for better regulating the Buildings of the Metropolitan Districts, and to provide for the better drainage thereof" (dated 1st March, 1844), in which some of the proposed enactments are rather dull; some are exceedingly unjust (in proposing to deprive persons of their property without compensation); some are exceedingly arbitrary (in proposing to drive the poor from their houses); and as the Bill generally (if carried into law) will arm the district-surveyors with an almost unlimited power of annoyance to the public?

The first clause I allude to is No. 5, which refers to Schedule (C) part I, in which it treats of the "Rule for ascertaining Stories;" but before giving it, I may perhaps be allowed to digress a little to explain that the customary mode of describing the stories of buildings for nearly the last two centuries has been as follows (which you are well aware of):

Cellar-story, or basement.

Ground-story.

One-pair-story.

Two-pair-story.

Three pair, and so on, the top story being called the "fourth," the one-pair or first story, having been so designated from being the first floor above the general or ground level.

But in the "Rule for ascertaining Stories" it is proposed, that "if the space between the top of the footings and the level of the first floor do not exceed 5 feet, then, the story nearest the foundation is to be considered the lowest or first story; but if such space exceed 5 feet, then such space is to be considered to contain the lowest or first story; and in that case the top of the footings is to be considered the level of the first floor."

So that instead of going up to the one-pair floor as heretofore, it will be going down to the first floor! This will be rather amusing, if carried into law.

But in some cases, the lowest story is not to be called the first story! as in the event of the foundation being dry, or if from any other cause the space between "the top of the footings and the level of the first floor exceeds 5 feet, then such space is to be considered to contain the lowest or first story." So that the first floor will be no floor at all, and will commence two stories below the ground level; the ground floor will be the three-pair; and persons living on the present one-pair, or drawing-room floor, will be up four-pair of stairs!

In clauses 15 and 16, are penalties proposed to be inflicted on parties using buildings before they have been certified; in some cases ranging from 5*l.* to 100*l.* per day, and in others from 100*l.* to 500*l.* per day.

In clause 17, it is proposed to secure a sufficient width of streets and other ways, according to the "conditions, regulations, and directions," in Schedule (1.), which is proposed to be enacted that every street must be of the width of 30 feet at the least; the effect of which will be, in a street 20 feet wide, that when a house is burnt or pulled down, it cannot be rebuilt without setting back 10 feet, to give the enacted width of 30 feet. The property thus cut off, is to be given up to the public without compensation or remuneration and where property is shallow, it cannot be rebuilt as a dwelling-house, if the rooms are less than 100 feet superficial; so that in such cases the property will be completely lost, except by the pending entirely on the rental of such premises (which is not an unusual case), will be left destitute.

The effect of such an enactment, after a time, would also be curious, as it would make straight streets under 30 feet wide completely zigzag; as on rebuilding premises after fire or otherwise, which might occur on one side of the street and then on the other, the houses to be rebuilt, would be set back 30 feet from the house opposite, thus sacrificing property without benefiting the public, and making a series of nuisance-corners down every street.

The provision in this clause, that all courts, alleys, passages, or other such public places, on rebuilding, must be at least 30 feet in width, with an entrance at each end of the same width, open from the ground upwards, of one entrance 30 feet wide open from the ground